



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**MAJORS, JOHN T.  
(1935- )  
PAPERS  
1952-1995**

*Processed by:*

Harry A. Stokes  
Archival Technical Services

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This finding aid focuses on the papers of John Terrill Majors, college football player and coach, born in Lynchburg, Tennessee. Spanning the years 1952-1995, the papers contain materials tracing the football career of Majors while an outstanding player at Lynchburg and Huntland High Schools, the University of Tennessee, and later as assistant coach at Tennessee, Mississippi State, the University of Arkansas, and finally as a highly successful head coach at Iowa State University, the University of Pittsburgh (twice), and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The collection consists of clippings, correspondence, notebooks, notes, photographs, plaques, programs, publications, scouting and game reports, audio cassettes, video cassettes, and films.

The materials in this finding aid measure 30 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the John T. Majors Papers may be made for scholarly research. For commercial or other use where there may be a potential copyright infringement, the user should obtain permission from the donor, or if necessary, the donor's heirs.

The Majors Papers were acquired through the foresight and efforts of the late John H. Thweatt, senior archivist at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The John Terrill Majors Papers, containing approximately 1,000 items, span the period 1952-1995. The collection is composed of clippings, correspondence, notebooks, notes, photographs, plaques, programs, publications, scouting and game reports, audio cassettes, video cassettes, films, and several miscellaneous items.

Clippings, representing a sizable portion of the collection, trace the history of John Majors' career in football, from his playing time as a tailback in high school through college and his thirty seven years as an active college coach. Clippings for the period 1950 through 1977 are incomplete. Researchers can find these materials by referring to the State Library and Archives Tennessee newspapers on microfilm.

Correspondence has been arranged alphabetically as well as chronologically. Many of the letters received by Coach Majors were from his fans that he acquired while he was head coach as the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Tennessee.

The notebooks are largely "playbooks" consisting of defensive and offensive football strategies.

Publications generally consist of football media guides and official programs of football games.

The photographic slides are largely of the years (1973-1976 and 1994-1995) that Coach Majors spent at the University of Pittsburgh.

The audio/visual materials cover the highlights of Majors' career as a player and a coach. Also included are several video interviews. For more detailed information see the listing at the end of this finding aid. These materials are housed in the vault of the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Additional information on John T. Majors may be found at the Tennessee State Museum, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, Special Collections Library listed under the heading MS 2019; at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Numerous newspaper articles on Majors' career from 1949 onward can be found in the following newspapers: the Nashville *Tennessean*; the Nashville *Banner*; the Knoxville *Journal*; the Knoxville *News Sentinel*; the Chattanooga *Times*; the Chattanooga *Free Press*; the Memphis *Commercial Appeal*; the Memphis *Press Scimitar*; and the Huntsville (AL) *Times*. Tennessee newspapers are available on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **John Terrill Majors**

- |           |                                                                                                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1935      | May 21, born to Shirley Inman and John Elizabeth Bobo Majors in Lynchburg, Tennessee                 |
| 1941-1950 | Educated in Lynchburg elementary and secondary public schools                                        |
| 1950      | Removed with family to Huntland, Tennessee                                                           |
| 1953      | Graduated from Huntland High School                                                                  |
| 1957      | Graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville                                              |
| 1957      | June-September, played with the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League                   |
| 1957-1959 | Student and, later, assistant football coach at the University of Tennessee                          |
| 1959      | June 27, married Mary Lynn Barnwell, daughter of C. H. and Esther Barnwell of Chattanooga, Tennessee |
| 1960-1963 | Assistant football coach at Mississippi State University                                             |
| 1964-1967 | Assistant football coach at University of Arkansas                                                   |
| 1968-1972 | Head football coach at Iowa State University                                                         |
| 1973-1976 | Head football coach at University of Pittsburgh                                                      |
| 1977-1992 | Head football coach at University of Tennessee                                                       |
| 1993-1996 | Head football coach at University of Pittsburgh                                                      |
| 1997      | Special assistant to the Chancellor and Director of Athletics at University of Pittsburgh            |

## **Honors and Awards**

State Overall Scoring Leader (football) 3 consecutive years: (Huntland H.S., 1950; 153 points); (Huntland H.S., 1951; 161 points); (Huntland H.S., 1952; 213 points); total points scored in 4 years: 564 points (including Moore County, Lynchburg, TN, in 1949).

All-SEC football tailback, 1955-1956

Nashville *Banner* SEC player of the year, 1955-1956

Unanimous NCAA All-America in football, 1956

Heisman Trophy runner-up, 1956

United Press International National Back of the Year, 1956

Atlanta Touchdown Club's SEC back-of-the-year, 1956

Birmingham Quarterback Club's SEC most valuable player, 1956

Charter Member of State of Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (TSHF), as well as all Majors' immediate family members. (The only family ever inducted in its entirety in the TSHF), 1966/1967

Big 8 Coach of the Year, 1971

National Coach of the Year, 1973 (FWAA)

Winner of the Dapper Dan Award by the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*, 1973

Named to the Birmingham QB Club's Quarter-Century SEC team, 1974

National Coach of the Year, Football Writers of America Association, American Football Coaches Association, Washington, DC Touchdown Club, Columbus, OH Touchdown Club, Walter Camp (And All Others), 1976

Southeastern Conference Coach of the year, 1985 (AP, UPI, Nashville *Banner*, Knoxville *Journal*)

Inducted into the National Football Foundation's College Hall of Fame, 1987

Named to University of Tennessee's All Century Team, 1991

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **BOX 1**

1. Address book—John and Mary Lynn Majors (2)
2. Appointment books—John and Mary Lynn Majors, 1968-1986 (19)

### **BOX 2**

#### **Associations, institutions, etc.**

1. The American Football Coaches Assn.—Asst. Coaches Committee manual
2. The American Football Coaches Assn.—Life Insurance—John Majors
3. The American Football Coaches Retirement Trust—Board of Trustees Six Months Chronicle, 1988
4. The American Football Coaches Retirement Trust—Correspondence, trust agreements, etc., 1988-1989
5. The American Football Coaches Retirement Trust—Meetings, 1988

### **BOX 3**

1. Associations, institutions, etc.—Coach of the year Clinics, 1995-2001
2. Associations, institutions, etc.—John Majors Enterprises, Inc.—Certificate of Incorporation, minutes, etc.
3. Associations, institutions, etc.—John Majors Enterprises, Inc.—Financial documents, etc.
4. Awards—Coach of the Year—Johnny Majors, Feb. 15, 1986
5. Awards—Univ. of Pittsburgh Regional Alumni—John T. Majors, n. d.
6. Badges—Univ. of Pittsburgh—John Majors, 1976, 1993
7. Bumper Stickers—Miscellaneous (5)
8. Cards—Greeting—Family
9. Cards—Membership—Iowa State Univ. Alumni Assn.—John Majors, 1978
10. Certificates—Gayle Sayers Award—Johnny Majors, 1982
11. Certificates—S. W. Ohio High School Football Coaches Assn.—John Majors, 1987
12. Certificates—Supt. of Police, City of New Orleans—Johnny Majors, 1985

### **BOX 4**

#### **Clippings**

1. Bill Majors
2. Bobby Majors
3. John Majors—Moore County (Lynchburg) High School and Huntland, Tennessee High School, 1949-1952
4. John Majors—Univ. of Tennessee, 1952-1956
5. John Majors—Mississippi State, 1960-1963
6. John Majors—Univ. of Arkansas, 1963-1967
7. John Majors—Iowa State University, 1967-1972

8. John Majors—Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1973-1976
9. John Majors—Univ. of Tennessee, 1977-1992
10. John Majors—Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1993-1996
11. John Majors—Awards/Honors, 1973-1988
12. John Majors—Miscellaneous
13. Mary Lynn Majors and family
14. Shirley and Elizabeth Majors
15. Esther Barnwell

### **BOX 5**

#### **Correspondence**

1. "A"
2. "B"
3. "C"
4. "D"
5. "E"
6. "F"
7. "G"

### **BOX 6**

#### **Correspondence**

1. "H"
2. Haywood Harris
3. "I-J"
4. Dr. Joe Johnson
5. "K"
6. "L"
7. "M"
8. John Majors – to - Elizabeth Majors
9. Shirley Majors – to – Bill Majors

### **BOX 7**

#### **Correspondence**

1. "N-O"
2. "P"
3. "Q-R"
4. "S"
5. Scheduling
6. Sports Benefits, Inc. (SBI)
7. "T"
8. "U-V"

9. "W"
10. "X-Y-Z"
11. Miscellaneous--unknown

### **BOX 8**

1. Financial documents—Deferred Compensation Plan—John Majors
2. Financial documents—Investments—Farmland
3. Financial documents—Investments—Stock
4. Financial documents—Promissory Notes
5. Football Camps—John Majors, 1985, 1986
6. Invitations—John T. Majors (2)
7. Invitations—Weddings—Angela Denise Nation and John Ireland Majors, May 29, 1993
8. Notebooks—Coach Majors—Defensive Analysis, Fall 1989
9. Notebooks—Coach Major's Checklist—Defense-Offense, 1986
10. Notebooks—Coaching Responsibilities—Coach Majors, et al., 1983
11. Notebooks—Coaching Responsibilities—Coach Majors, et al., 1984
12. Notebooks—Compliance Manual, 1993-1994

### **BOX 9**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Offensive Playbook, 1970
2. Defensive Playbook, 1971
3. Offensive Playbook, 1973
4. Offensive and Defensive Playbook, 1974

### **BOX 10**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Offensive and Defensive Playbook, 1975
2. Defensive Playbook, 1979
3. Defensive Playbook, 1984

### **BOX 11**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Defensive Playbook, 1984
2. Defensive Playbook, 1985
3. Spring Practice, 1985

### **BOX 12**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Spring Practice Checklist, 1986
2. Season Practice Schedules, 1990



3. Spring and Fall Practice Schedules, 1993
4. Tennessee Total Offensive Stats, 1982-1986

### **BOX 13**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Offensive Playbook, 1985
2. Defensive Playbook, 1986
3. Defensive Fall Stats Composite, 1987
4. Defensive Spring Stats Composite, 1987
5. Iowa State, n. d.

### **BOX 14**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Spring and Fall Practice Schedules, 1969-1970
2. Spring Practice Schedules, 1984
3. Fall Practice Schedules, 1984

### **BOX 15**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Two-a-Day practices, 1984
2. Practice Schedule, 1985
3. Practice Schedule—Liberty Bowl, 1986
4. Practice Schedules, Spring, 1986
5. Two-a-Day Practices, 1986
6. Practice Schedules, Fall, 1986

### **BOX 16**

#### **Notebooks**

1. Practice Schedules, Fall, 1986
2. Two-a-Day practice Schedule, Fall, 1987
3. Practice Schedules, 1987
4. Practice Schedules, Spring, 1988
5. Practice Schedules, Fall, 1988
6. Practice Schedules—Offensive, Fall, 1988
7. Scouting Reports, 1975

### **BOX 17**

#### **Notes**

1. Bobby Bowden/John Majors
2. Coach Majors, 1986
3. Coaching Clinics
4. Critique file, 1986
5. Doug Dickey/John Majors

6. John Majors—"The Greatest Salesman in the World"
7. John Majors—Lee Iacocca—Autobiography
8. John Majors—Prospects/Signees
9. John Majors—Veer offense
10. John Majors—Wishbone offense
11. Kicking, 1986
12. Kicking, 1987
13. Lessons—Coach John Majors, 1986
14. Offensive Staff, 1985
15. Opponents, 1987
16. Spring Practice, 1987
17. Spring Practice, 1988
18. Staff Meeting, 1983
19. Staff Meeting, 1984
20. Staff Meeting, 1985
21. Staff Meeting, 1986

### **BOX 18**

1. Notes—Staff, 1988
2. Notes—Staff Meeting, 1989
3. Notes—Staff Meeting, 1990
4. Patch—Middle Tennessee Boy Scouts of America McDonald's '77 Fall Roundup—Johnny Majors
5. Photographs—John E. and Elizabeth Bobo
6. Photographs—Paul "Bear" Bryant (2)
7. Photographs—Great Smoky Mt. Council Boy Scouts of America
8. Photographs—John Majors—Elementary (Lynchburg, TN) and High School (Huntland, TN) (17)
9. Photographs—John Majors—College (Univ. of Tennessee) (4)
10. Photographs—John Majors—Head Football Coach, Univ. of Tennessee (5)
11. Photographs—John Majors, Ned McWherter, and ?
12. Photographs—John Majors and UT fans (4)
13. Photographs—John Majors, et al., (12)
14. Photographs—John and Mary Lynn Majors and children (2)
15. Photographs—John and Mary Lynn Majors, et al., (2)

### **BOX 19**

1. Photographs—John and Mary Lynn Major's home (2)
2. Photographs—John Ireland Majors, Mary Elizabeth Majors and two Iowa State University football players
3. Photographs—Paul New
4. Photographs—Tennessee Delegation for Induction of Johnny Majors, Univ. of Tennessee, into National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, Dec. 8, 1987

5. Photographs—Lee Trevino (2)
6. Photographs—1973 Univ. of Pittsburgh Coaching Staff
7. Photographs—Bowden Wyatt
8. Posters—Johnny Majors (5)
9. Programs—Carnicus, 1957, May 4, 1957
10. Programs—Dapper Dan Club Dinner, Feb. 3, 1974 and Feb. 9, 1986
11. Programs—Dedication—Johnny Majors Football Practice Field, Aug. 18, 1998
12. Programs—52<sup>nd</sup> Presidential Inaugural Commemoratives, Jan. 20, 1993
13. Programs—Friendly sons of St. Patrick (Wilkes-Barre, PA), Mar. 17, 1976
14. Programs—Good Sports Stag, Nov. 29, 1971
15. Programs—Kodak Coach of the Year Awards, 1976
16. Programs—Monday Morning Quarterback Club, Feb. 19, 1976
17. Programs—Mississippi State Toasts Johnny Majors, 1977
18. Programs—National Football foundation and Hall of fame 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner, Dec. 8, 1987
19. Programs—Peach Bowl Players Annual Banquet and Queen Pageant, Dec. 30, 1987
20. Programs—Sun Bowl Touchdown Club, Dec., 23, 1975
21. Programs—Walter Camp Foundation Awards, 1973
22. Publications—“The Johnny Majors Executive Football Diary,” 1978

## **BOX 20**

### **Publications**

1. Booklet—“Pitt Football 1972”
2. Booklet—“Majors of Tennessee,” 1976
3. Booklet—“Dinner of Champions,” 1986
4. Booklet—“Football Time in Tennessee,” 1989
5. Booklet—“1993 Pitt Football”
6. Booklet—“1994 Pitt football”
7. Booklet—“1994 Pitt Football Spring Prospectus”
8. Booklet—“1995 Pitt football”
9. Brochures—“The 1965 Arkansas Razorback”
10. Brochures—“Liberty Bowl: Iowa State vs. Georgia Tech., Dec. 18, 1972
11. Journal—“Panther Sports,” May 1994
12. Magazine—“The Nashville Tennessean,” Nov. 25, 1956
13. Magazine—“Golden Panther Prints,” 1973-1976
14. Magazine—“The Chapter News Digest,” Autumn 1975, Winner 1988
15. Magazine—“Footballletter,” Sept.-Oct., 1987; Jan.-Feb. 1988
16. Magazine—“Tennessee Alumnus,” Fall 1990
17. Magazine—“Tennessee Volunteers/Smoky’s Tale,” 1990-1991
18. Magazine—“Pitt,” Sept., 1993
19. Magazine—“Panther Sports Journal,” May 1995

## **BOX 21**

### **Publications—Media Guides**

1. 1975 Mountaineer Football, West Virginia University
2. 1984 Sun Bowl Press Guide
3. 1985 University of Tennessee/Football Guide
4. 1986 Liberty Bowl Press guide
5. 1986 Sugar Bowl Press Guide
6. 1988 Peach Bowl Press Guide
7. 1988 University of Tennessee Volunteers Football Guide
8. 1989 University of Tennessee Volunteers Football Guide
9. 1990 University of Tennessee Volunteers Bowl Guide
10. 1991 University of Tennessee Volunteers Sugar Bowl Guide
11. 1991 University of Tennessee Volunteers Football Guide
12. 1992 University of Tennessee Volunteers Football Guide

## **BOX 22**

### **Publications**

1. Media Guide—1973 Pitt Football Media Guide
2. Media Guide—1994 Pitt Football Media Guide
3. Media Guide—Pitt 1995
4. Newspaper—The Knoxville *Journal*, Oct. 8, 1990
5. Newspaper—The Knoxville *News-Sentinel*, Dec. 28, 1989
6. Newspaper—The Knoxville *News-Sentinel*, Oct. 7, 1990
7. Newspaper—Nashville *Banner*, Nov. 24, 1990
8. Newspaper—The *Pitt News*, Aug. 30, 1993
9. Newspaper—Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*, Aug. 29, 1993
10. Newspaper—Score! Pittsburgh, PA., Sept. 4, 1975
11. Newspaper—*The Tennessean*, Jan. 1, 1990

## **BOX 23**

### **Publications—Official Programs**

1. Northwestern vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 29, 1973
2. Pittsburgh vs. Navy, Oct. 27, 1973
3. Fiesta Bowl, Arizona State University vs. Pittsburgh, Dec. 21, 1973
4. Georgia Tech. vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 21, 1974
5. Pittsburgh vs. West Virginia, Oct. 12, 1974
6. Pittsburgh vs. Temple, Nov. 9, 1974
7. Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh, Nov. 16, 1974
8. Georgia vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 6, 1975
9. Temple vs. Pittsburgh, Oct. 11, 1975
10. Pittsburgh vs. Navy, Oct. 25, 1975
11. Pittsburgh vs. Notre Dame, Nov. 15, 1975
12. Sun Bowl: Pittsburgh vs. Kansas, Dec. 26, 1975

13. Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 11, 1976
14. Pittsburgh vs. Syracuse, Oct. 30, 1976
15. Pittsburgh vs. Army, Nov. 6, 1976
16. Pittsburgh vs. West Virginia, Nov. 13, 1976

#### **BOX 24**

##### **Publications—Official Programs**

1. 43<sup>rd</sup> Sugar Bowl Classic, Jan. 1, 1977
2. Tennessee vs. Rutgers, Nov. 2, 1985
3. Tennessee vs. Mississippi, Nov. 16, 1985
4. Sugar Bowl: Tennessee vs. Miami, Jan. 1, 1986
5. Liberty Bowl: Minnesota vs. Tennessee, Dec. 29, 1986
6. Peach Bowl: Indiana vs. Tennessee, Jan. 2, 1988
7. Tennessee vs. Auburn, Sept. 10, 1989
8. Cotton Bowl: Tennessee vs. Arkansas, Jan. 1, 1990
9. Sugar Bowl: Tennessee vs. Virginia, Jan. 1, 1991
10. Notre Dame vs. Tennessee, Nov. 9, 1991
11. Fiesta bowl: Tennessee vs. Penn State, Jan. 1, 1992
12. Tennessee vs. Alabama, Oct. 17, 1992

#### **BOX 25**

1. Publications—Official Programs—Southern Miss. vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 2, 1993
2. Publications—Official Programs—Pittsburgh vs. Virginia Tech., Sept. 11, 1993
3. Publications—Official Programs—Pittsburgh vs. Louisville, Oct. 2, 1993
4. Publications—Official Programs—Pittsburgh vs. Miami, Nov. 6, 1993
5. Publications—Official Programs—Pittsburgh vs. Temple, Oct. 29, 1994
6. Publications—Official Programs—Texas vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 16, 1995
7. Quotations/maxims/adages--Miscellaneous
8. Recruiting—University of Tennessee, 1977-1987
9. Resolutions/Proclamations—Honorary Mayor of Milan, TN—Johnny Majors, Apr. 3, 1991
10. Resolutions/proclamations—Honoring Coach Majors, Coaching staff and 1985 Tenn. Volunteer football team

#### **BOX 26**

##### **Scouting and Game Reports**

1. Arkansas vs. Oklahoma State, Sept. 23, 1967
2. Arkansas vs. Tulsa, Sept. 30, 1967
3. Arkansas vs. Texas Christian, Oct. 7, 1967
4. Arkansas vs. Baylor, Oct. 14, 1967
5. Arkansas vs. Texas, Oct. 21, 1967
6. Arkansas vs. Kansas, Oct. 28, 1967
7. Arkansas vs. Texas A & M, Nov. 4, 1967

8. Arkansas vs. Rice, Nov. 11, 1967
9. Arkansas vs. Southern Methodist, Nov. 18, 1967
10. Arkansas vs. Texas Tech., 1967
11. Speeches—John Majors
12. Tickets—Football games (19)

## **BOX 27**

### **Oversize**

1. Certificates—Award for Merit—Hula Bowl Roll of Honor, Jan. 3, 1977
2. Certificates—Appreciation—121<sup>st</sup> U. S. Army Reserve Command to Johnny Majors, n. d.
3. Certificates—Appreciation—Kiwanis Club of Mill Creek to Coach John Majors, Feb. 3, 1987
4. Certificates—Diploma—Tennessee College of Hunting and Fishing to Johnny Majors, Mar. 5, 1980
5. Clippings—“Huntland, in Third Year of Football, Boasts Top Record in State: John Majors Leading Scorer,” 1951
6. Clippings—Huntland High, 1952
7. Clippings—“Wyatt Calls 57 to Begin Grid Drills Saturday,” Aug. 26, 1956
8. Clippings—“America’s No. 1 Football Family,” Oct. 13, 1957
9. Clippings—“Majors’ Era Ending in South,” Dec. 1, 1971
10. Clippings—“Flowers and Football,” Sept. 2, 1990
11. Clippings—“UT looks to Sweeten 100<sup>th</sup> year,” Jan. 1, 1991
12. Clippings—Sugar Bowl, 1991
13. Correspondence (framed)—Nickolas Jones, June 4, 1992
14. Drawing—“A ‘Roast’ to Johnny Majors”
15. Magazine—“The 67<sup>th</sup> All-America,” *Colliers*, Dec. 7, 1956
16. Newspaper—“100 Years of Tennessee Football,” *The Knoxville Journal*, Oct. 3, 1990
17. Photographs—Coach “Bear” Bryant’s last appearance in Neyland Stadium, Oct. 16, 1982
18. Photographs—Coach John Majors and Coach “Bear” Bryant, n. d.
19. Photographs—Coach John Majors, Doug Dickey, and Tennessee Vols., n. d.
20. Photographs—Coach John Majors and Jackie Sherrill, Dec. 1976
21. Photographs—1975 University of Pittsburgh football squad
22. Photographs—1985 University of Tennessee /varsity Football Team
23. Photographs—University of Pittsburgh football stadium, n. d.
24. Photographs—Neyland Stadium, Knoxville, Tennessee, n. d.
25. Photographs—East Shriner football squad, Jan. 10, 1981
26. Photographs—“The Stop – Tennessee vs. L. S. U., 1959
27. Photographs—Tennessee football player in action, n. d.
27. Poem—“The Saga of Blue Bonnet Bowl ‘79”
28. Posters—“A Day to Remember”
29. Proclamation—Congressional Record—“Johnny Majors Inducted Into College Football Hall of Fame,” Feb. 3, 1987
30. Scrapbook—John Majors as football tailback at University of Tennessee, 1956

## **BOX 28**

### **Oversize—Plaques**

1. "John Majors, Guest Speaker"—Easley Football Jamboree, 1977
2. "Hula Bowl Award of Merit"—East and West Football Team and Coaches, Jan. 11, 1986
3. "Coach and Athlete"—Running Back Tony Dorsett and Coach Johnny Majors, University of Pittsburgh, Nov. 1975
4. "Congressional Record Award to Johnny Majors," n. d.
5. The University of Tennessee, Department of Music—"An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein Favorites with Co-hosts John Majors and Bob Hasting," 1984
6. State of Tennessee-House of Representatives—House Joint Resolution No. 115—Honoring Coach Johnny Majors, Coaching Staff, and the University of Tennessee football Team, 1990
7. "Majors: Tennessee's Head Man Takes *Banner* Coach of Year Award," 1985

## **BOX 29**

### **Photographic Slides**

- 1-41. University of Pittsburgh panthers football team in action
- 42-82. Coach John Majors
- 83-90. John and Mary Lynn Majors and family
- 91-96. Instant Replay Club at Chatham Center
97. Pitt Panther Country
98. Sports Illustrated: "Pitt is It!", Jan. 10, 1997
- 99-100. Sun Bowl
- 101-102. Locker Room Scenes
- 103-105. Majors family scenes
106. Football trophies
107. "Merry Christmas; Biloxi Welcomes Pitt
108. Casimer Myslinski
109. Casimer Myslinski and John Majors
110. Dr. Wesley W. Posvar, John Majors, and Casimer Myslinski
- 111-112. John Majors and Mary Lynn Majors
113. John Majors, Mary Lynn Majors, et al.
114. Pitt locker room
- 115-117. John Majors and Pitt football player
- 118-124. John Majors, et al.
- 125-127. John Majors at a pre-season camp or practice
- 128-131. Miscellaneous—unidentified

**MAJORS, JOHN TERRILL  
PAPERS  
AUDIO/VIDEO/FILM  
MATERIALS**

*Processed by:*

Greg Yates  
Archival Technical Services

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Consists of audio and video material related to the life of John T. Majors. The audio tapes consist of 5 tapes by Skip Parkes on the life of John Majors and his family while growing up in Tennessee. Additionally, there are 2 cassettes from Majors' coaching days at Iowa State, one cassette titled *America's Top Winners* which includes a speech by John Majors, a high-light program on the 1973 season at Pittsburgh which includes interviews with Shirley and Elizabeth Majors, and a radio interview with WOPI in Bristol, Tennessee. In addition to the audiocassettes, there are 6 CD's (2 CD's per game recorded) that are copies of broadcasts of 3 University of Pittsburgh games from the 1973 season, Notre Dame, Army, and Penn State. The Notre Dame CD has a pre-game interview with Coach Majors on CD #1, and the Penn State CD has a post-game interview with Coach Majors on CD #2.

The video material in this collection contains footage of John Majors as a player as well as a coach. Included in the video material is a film titled "University of Wyoming Best Offensive Plays", which John Majors used as the inspiration for the style of offense he would implement as a coach. Also included in the video material are 3 films marked as Personal Films that include footage of John Majors as a player during the 1956 season, the year he finished second in balloting for the Heisman Trophy. The games included in the personal films include Duke, Kentucky, Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt, Baylor, Alabama, and Maryland. In addition to these films, there is also one film in U-Matic format that has more extensive footage of the Alabama and another tape in VHS format of the Auburn game from 1956. There is also one video in VHS format from Iowa State University showing high-lights of the 1971 season. A significant amount of video material is available from the 1976 Pittsburgh Panther season highlighting the National Championship season, including a video titled *Year of the Panther* and another titled *Pitt is It*. There are also video materials from Majors tenure at the University of Tennessee, including one video titled *Miracle at South Bend* which highlights the come from behind victory against Notre Dame in 1991. This video is in VHS format. There are several other videos from the University of Tennessee, but these are basically game film from the 1992 season broken down by section such as defense, or offense that were used to help prepare for future games. This game film is in Beta Format only and is not currently available for use. Some video material is also in the collection from Majors personal life, including a video of a trip sponsored by Nike for football coaches, and a video of a golf tournament that took place in Laurel Valley, Pennsylvania in 1999. Finally, there is a video interview conducted by John Paul Richiuso at the State Library and Archives on July 17, 2003 of John Majors.

The last box in this collection contains 16mm film, which consists of the personal films of John Majors as a player and "The University of Wisconsin Best Offensive Plays". These films are not to be used because VHS and /or DVCam master tapes have been created of these films for public use.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **John T. Majors Papers**

#### **Audiocassette Tapes**

##### **Box 30**

1. From Skip Parkes
- (:00) Intro Comments
- (1:00) Famous Names from a Small County
- (1:55) Elk Hunting Story to Colorado
- (2:04) Majors Family coming from Lynchburg
- (2:35) Father [Coach Majors] hired as Football coach at Lynchburg and conditions at Lynchburg, 1945-1948
- (8:48) Frog-eyed BoBo story
- (9:10) Biting opponents story
- (10:03) Opportunity to play football in Lynchburg and lessons taught by Coach Majors
- (11:28) Chasing and selling chickens to raise money to pay Coach Majors
- (12:11) Attempting to Re-hire Coach Majors at Lynchburg after retiring from University of the South
- (14:51) Outfit worn by Coach Majors when coaching
- (15:21) Running 21 laps at each practice
- (16:18) Comments on smoking
- (17:25) Coach was a fair man
- (18:25) Comments on playing on Friday night, this was the only game
- (19:04) Learning best tacklers on team
- (19:25) Discipline taught
- (19:40) Cripp Hobbs and I going to Sewanee to see Coach Majors and guessing plays
- (20:36) Comments on 1946 season
- (21:17) Comments on playing Winchester, Winchester had a band, we did not
- (22:31) Comments on senior year, several players mentioned, practiced at Decherd
- (24:08) Decherd thrown out of athletic competition, I returned to Lynchburg
- (24:40) More comments on senior season, several players mentioned
- (26:55) All games changed to afternoon, further comments on players
- (27:24) Plymouth story and trip to Nashville to see Service teams play
- (29:27) Comments on call to Pat Qualls asking to get a dozen bananas for Johnny Majors and place them in a brown bag after winning Sugar Bowl
- (30:27) Shotgun story, comments on Mr. Holt
- (32:23) End Tape

2. From Skip Parkes
- (00) Shotgun story cont.
- (:39) Preparing for football season by reading a book on Knute Rockne
- (1:27) Coach gave us discipline
- (1:49) Camersville game, down 52-0 at half
- (2:42) Comments on not talking to coach about plays
- (3:51) Comments on University of the South, Possibly calling and becoming an assistant coach under Majors
- (4:33) Comments on Junior Allen and practices
- (6:01) Comments on not loafing on the team and size of teams
- (6:49) Comments on going back to watch practices after graduating with different coaches and different coaching styles
- (7:47) Comments on trip to Sewanee for a game and differences in equipment, comments on the game
- (9:52) Game at Tracy City
- (11:45) Comments on "Tad Pole", Max Irvine, intensity in play
- (12:36) Comments on protecting "Frog Eye"
- (14:00) Game against Murfreesboro B team in senior season, Bill Tipps scoring a touchdown
- (14:46) Wilson Bearden
- (15:15) Trip to Shelbyville to play the B team, we did not have a real coach this year
- (16:57) 23 spinner play at Shelbyville game
- (19:16) Comments on trips and Majors name being known throughout the country as well as the Jack Daniels name, and differences the names represent
- (20:18) V-Rock mountain trip story, snow storm
- (21:32) Story of death of Bill Majors
- (22:05) Comments on death of Marion Holt
- (22:29) Last time I saw Bill majors, at Butter Bowl in Tullahoma
- (23:02) I believe Bill was going to be the best football player of all of them
- (23:25) Going with Carl Rushian to see games
- (24:01) Bill was at the wrong school at the wrong time, I still believe he was the most skilled
- (24:32) When I was a senior, John Terrill was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I started practicing the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, they played and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders won, comments on run by John Terrill, comments on watching a future All-American and not knowing it
- (26:13) Game against Shelbyville, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team
- (28:30) I have always claimed AI was John Terrill's first coach
- (28:53) Further comments on game at Shelbyville
- (29:25) Comments on this being a great American story, kids from one family from a small town can become All-Americans, coaches, etc..
- (32:26) End Tape

3. From Skip Parkes

- (:15) Comments on talking to John Terrill, wanting to buy equipment for Lynchburg Little League, John Terrill got tickets for the Vanderbilt/Tennessee game, as well as jerseys and footballs, made \$1500 and had money left over, this is the nature of John Terrill
- (1:48) Coach Majors was first Boy Scouts leader in Lynchburg
- (2:58) Comments on Big Jim Bedford and trip to dentist
- (5:07) Lives saved by Big Jim
- (8:16) Trip to Clarksville, then to Dover to duck hunt with Big Jim
- (10:44) Duck hunting at Garner Ford with Big Jim
- (11:54) John Terrill being involved in charity work, football for charity
- (13:13) Colored football game in Fayetteville
- (17:42) Trip to U.T. to see a game, story about “King Tut”
- (19:14) Comments on going to college, comments on going to football games at U.T. to see John Terrill play
- (21:24) Comments on seeing John Terrill’s father in John Terrill, especially when watching games on the television, comments on “looks” from both when players make mistakes, comments on both wanting to win
- (22:45) Summary comments
- (24:10) Trip to Lynchburg
- (25:20) End tape

4. From Skip Parkes

- (:05) Comments on Coach doing an all-sports banquet in the spring of the year before he passed away in the fall. Comments on coach getting cowboy hat and pipe.
- (1:43) Comments Daniels’ boys playing on the 1946 team.
- (2:12) Comments on trip to Baxter Seminary to play football. Stopping to get T. Motlow.
- (3:28) Comments on trip to Lost Creek, “Coon on a Log Hunt”, bulldog story
- (7:38) Comments on homecoming for John Terrill at U.T., I regretted that I did not make it
- (8:41) Comments on alumni football game at Tullahoma
- (11:08) Comments on doing chores to earn money
- (12:08) Comments on Lon Barnell
- (12:23) Comments on watching Kentucky/Vanderbilt basketball game on early television, Coach Barnell was on the half-time show
- (13:15) Further comments on Coach Barnell, player shot at wrong goal
- (14:06) Baseball game
- (15:21) 1945 team, Coaches second year, comments on playing Risen, Alabama, comments on coach saying ‘Bucket of Blood’
- (17:05) Further comments on 1945 team, comments on playing at Baxter, hot day, terrible field conditions, comments on fight at game

- (19:12) Comments on brother, Bobby
- (19:51) Coal pile strike, 1946
- (21:21) Uncle Jeff Moore's cabin
- (24:40) Pap Campbell, buffalo almost gets Pap
- (28:22) Bobby playing for U.T., against Auburn University, we were deer hunting at the time, Rodney and John
- (29:53) Trout fishing story,
- (30:10) End Tape

5. From Skip Parkes

- (:05) Trout Fishing story cont., Rodney and John
- (2:38) Reminiscing with coach, very grateful for the opportunity, last time I saw him alive, comments on efforts by coach
- (6:19) Comments to John Terrill
- (8:08) End tape

- 6. "Once a Cyclone", Including Speeches by Coach Johnny Majors and season hi-lights
- 7. "Once a Cyclone", Including Speeches by Coach Johnny Majors, season hi-lights, and various other items
- 8. "America's Top Winners", from the "Masters of Motivation" series, including Lou Holtz, Hayden Frye, Joe Paterno, Johnny Majors, Don James, Barry Switzer, LaVell Edwards, Terry Donahue, Bo Shembeckler, Vince Dooley, Tom Osborne,
- 9. High-light program on 1973 season at Pittsburgh, including interviews with Shirley and Elizabeth Majors
- 10. WOPI Radio Interview, Bristol, Tennessee
- 11. Pittsburgh vs. Notre Dame, Includes Pre-game interview with Coach Majors, 11/10/1973, CD 1
- 12. Pittsburgh vs. Notre Dame, 11/10/1973, CD 2
- 13. Pittsburgh vs. Army, 11/17/1973, CD 1
- 14. Pittsburgh vs. Army, 11/17/1973, CD 2
- 15. Pittsburgh vs. Penn State, 11/24/1973, CD 1
- 16. Pittsburgh vs. Penn State, Includes Post-game interview with Coach Majors, 11/24/1973, CD 2

**John T. Majors Papers**

**Phonograph Records and Audiocassette Tapes**

**Box 31**

- 1. "Big Orange Country" and "It's Boogie Time in Tennessee" by C. Curry, c. New Recording Company, 2 45rpm records and cassette copy
- 2. "(We've Got To) Win This One," by Hoyt Axton, c. Jeremiah 1012, 2 45rpm records and cassette copy
- 3. Lyrics, "Big Orange Country" and "It's Boogie Time in Tennessee"

**John T. Majors Papers**  
**Videocassettes/Films/DVD's**

**Box 32**

1. University of Wyoming "Best Offensive Plays", 1947-1952, Master Tape, DVCAM Format
2. John Majors Personal Film #1, U.T. vs. Duke, 1956, U.T. vs. Kentucky, 1956, and U.T. vs. Georgia Tech, 1956, Master Tape, DVCAM Format
3. John Majors Personal Film #1, U.T. vs. Duke, 1956, U.T. vs. Kentucky, 1956, and U.T. vs. Georgia Tech, 1956, Copy Tape, VHS Format
4. John Majors Personal Film #2, U.T. vs. Vanderbilt, 1956, Master Tape, DVCAM Format
5. John Majors Personal Film #2, U.T. vs. Vanderbilt, 1956, Copy Tape, VHS Format
6. John Majors Personal Film #3, U.T. vs. Baylor, Sugar Bowl, 1957, U.T. vs. Alabama, 1956, and U.T. vs. Maryland, 1956, Master Tape, DVCAM Format
7. John Majors Personal Film #3, U.T. vs. Baylor, Sugar Bowl, 1957, U.T. vs. Alabama, 1956, and U.T. vs. Maryland, 1956, Copy Tape, VHS Format
8. Tennessee vs. Auburn, 1956, Master Tape, DVD Format
9. Tennessee vs. Auburn, 1956, Copy Tape, VHS Format
10. Iowa State University Football, Cyclone Highlights, 1971, Master Tape, DVD Format
11. Iowa State University Football, Cyclone Highlights, 1971, Iowa State University, Copy Tape, VHS Format
12. *Year of the Panther*, 1976, University of Pittsburgh, WTAE-TV, Master Tape, DVD Format
13. *Year of the Panther*, 1976, University of Pittsburgh, WTAE-TV, Copy Tape, VHS Format
14. *Pitt is It, The Cinderella Story of the 1976 National Champion Pitt Panthers*, WTAE-TV, Master Tape, DVD Format
15. *Pitt is It, The Cinderella Story of the 1976 National Champion Pitt Panthers*, WTAE-TV, Copy Tape, VHS Format
16. *Pitt is It, The Cinderella Story of the 1976 National Champion Pitt Panthers*, WTAE TV, Copy Tape 2, VHS Format

**Box 33**

1. Championship Game 1980, "Condores", University of Mexico, Beta Format
2. *Miracle at South Bend*, 1991, UTV/Host Creative Communications, VHS Format
3. Defense vs. Alabama, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
4. Kicking vs. Alabama, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
5. Offense vs. Alabama, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
6. Defense vs. Arkansas, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
7. Kicking vs. Arkansas, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
8. Offense vs. Arkansas, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
9. Defense vs. Cincinnati, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
10. Offense vs. Cincinnati, 1992 (Small Beta Format)

**Box 34**

1. Special Teams vs. Cincinnati, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
2. Defense vs. Florida, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
3. Offense vs. Florida, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
4. Special Teams vs. Florida, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
5. Defense vs. Georgia, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
6. Kicking vs. Georgia, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
7. Offense vs. Georgia, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
8. Offense vs. LSU, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
9. Special Teams vs. LSU, 1992 (Small Beta Format)

**Box 35**

1. Defense vs. Southwest Louisiana, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
2. Kicking vs. Southwest Louisiana, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
3. Offense vs. Southwest Louisiana, 1992 (Small Beta Format)
4. Nike Football Coaches Trip to Kona, 1992, VHS Format
5. Jones Day Steel City Shoot Out "The Kings of Swing", Laurel Valley, Pennsylvania, 1999, VHS Format
6. John Majors Interview, Conducted by John Paul Richiuse at TSLA, 7/17/2003, VHS Format
7. University of Tennessee vs. Alabama, Large U-Matic Format

**Box 36**

1. John Majors Personal Film #1, U.T. vs. Duke, 1956, U.T. vs. Kentucky, 1956, and U.T. vs. Georgia Tech, 1956, 16mm Film Format
2. John Majors Personal Film #2, U.T. vs. Vanderbilt, 1956, 16mm Format
3. John Majors Personal Film #3, U.T. vs. Baylor, Sugar Bowl, 1957, U.T. vs. Alabama, 1956, and U.T. vs. Maryland, 1956, 16mm Format
4. University of Wyoming "Best Offensive Plays", 1947-1952, 16mm Format